

Children Caring for Children

By Samreen Hooda

"It's not what you do; it's how much love you put in the doing. It's not how much you give, but how much love you put into the giving."

-- Mother Teresa.



To some she may be a child, but to others, she's a provider, a helpful hand, a caring shoulder. Advocating every child's right to education, Sarosha Hansraj embarked on a journey to help children in Afghanistan achieve this goal. "It all started when my parents told me a story about a farmer who lost all his crops in the rain. He had to stop sending his kids to school so they could work." After hearing this story, Sarosha, now 11, wanted to help children like the ones from the story go to school.

At the age of 8, Sarosha began her very own international aid charity, Children Care for Children, providing necessities to children who didn't have the basic school supplies. Her first project was to provide backpacks with supplies to 500 girls at the Darnami school in Khost province of Afghanistan. In order to do this, Sarosha and her organization held various events at both REC and school, conducting hoopathons and selling flowers to raise the needed funds. First, she researched international aid organizations that could help her deliver school supplies to the children of Afghanistan.

She found an organization called Partnerships with Children in Afghanistan, which had a similar mission. After contacting it, Sarosha began raising funds and giving presentations to raise awareness for the cause she was supporting. "It makes me feel good because when I was helping the girls, only boys used to go to school and I wanted to give everyone a fair chance,"

Sarosha said, adding, "education is the way to break the cycle of poverty."

Today, not only has Sarosha completed her first project, but she has raised her goal and continues to increase awareness of her organization. She has been recognized as one of the ten national winners by the Kohl's Kids Who Care and has even been interviewed by CBS channel 11 for her charity efforts. "The success of Children Care for Children is not measured by the money it raises, but by the number of its participants," Sarosha said. As awareness of the organization increases, she aims for greater involvement and more support.

"One day I want to make Children Care for Children available to any child who wants to help, so they can carry out their own projects. They can see what they want to provide, and can work on their own project under the organization." Currently, the organization is working on raising money to provide dictionaries for every child at the Darnami school. Every penny counts, and according to Sarosha, everyone can help: "Everybody can make a difference. It doesn't matter how young or old you are, how rich or poor you are, even one dollar can make a difference because, imagine, most of the world lives on less than two dollars a day." ▼

For more information on Sarosha and her organization, please visit: www.childrencareforchildren.org